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MABUHAYANG PILIPINO!!! BAGUIO CITY, AND LATRINIDAD, BENGUET LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

DENR say Awaited on Writ of Kalikasan Compromise



Congressman Bernardo M. Vergara recently distributed a total of 214 units of handheld VHF Radio Tranceivers (Kenwood TH 255A) to 107 barangays (2 units per barangay), and 42 mountain bikes for 21 barangays (2 bikes per barangay). The VHF radios and bicycles are intended to be used in monitoring peace and order and to facilitate better communication within and among the different barangays. The radio units are programmed and linked to the Baguio City Police Office and other Disaster Response Units. In this photo, Punong Barangays Mario S. de Guzman (West Modern Site), Gerry Uy (San Roque Village), Edmund Gundran (Military Cut-Off) and Benjie Macadangdang (Lourdes Extension) receive the bikes and radio units in behalf of their respective barangays./photo by Glenn S. Pat-ogan

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Pacman Defeat is a Win!

BY: JESUS DUREZA



Writ of Kalikasan.
Walang silbi o saysay ang mga buhay na nawala sa Trash Slide dala ng kasakiman ng maraming ubod ang KO-KORAP na mga opisyaes!

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Lawmaker Called on the Government to Investigate Killings of Environmentalists and DENR Employees

Senate minority leader Alan Peter S. Cayetano called on the government to act on the reported killings of employees of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and environmentalists.

He said that the fact that the killings are not sensational media items, it is no reason for the national government to take the deaths lightly.

“It is disappointing to note that nothing has been heard of results of investigations on the deaths. Are these deaths all in vain?,” he asked.

He noted that to date, 14 DENR employees and environmentalists have been killed under the Aquino administration, DENR Butuan employee Ricardo Magallanes being the most recent on June 1.

“This series of events has a chilling effect on various environmental groups,” he said.

“Instead of speaking out against illegal loggers and other violators of the country’s environmental laws, they will cease to do so for fear of their lives,” he added.

He cited the case of the illegal logging operations discovered inside the 13,800-hectare forest traversing Zambales and the Pangasinan town of Mangaterem.

The senator said the Aquino administration’s call for environmental protection should be matched by measures that will protect those who respond to the call.

“Violators have no qualms resorting to violence to keep their operations profitable. Government must send a strong message to those who intimidate and silence environmentalists with impunity that these acts will not go unpunished,” he said.

The minority leader suggested the creation of a joint DENR and Department of Justice (DOJ) task-force to investigate the deaths and recommend measures to counter the deadly tactics of the syndicates and unscrupulous businessmen.

Cayetano stressed that with local agencies manning the front lines, it is incumbent upon the national government to provide all the support in the campaign particularly against illegal loggers and miners./Office of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano

Dads Weighs Rate for Mines View Stalls

BAGUIOCITY – the City Council has put on hold approval of the proposed ordinance of Councilor Perlita Chan Rondez which prescribes the rates and allocation of the guidelines for stalls in the newly constructed Mines View

Multi-purpose building here.

Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas approved Monday another request from Mines View Barangay Chairman Antero Buswilan, Jr. for another week before it acts on the measure in hopes of finding a win-win solution to the dilemma

being faced by concessionaires there.

This as vendors appealed for more time to assess and give their feedbacks on the rates which will be imposed by the city.

The vendors claimed spaces for stall allocated to them are small and

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Regional Consumer Group Convened in Baguio

“We must be heard, organized and empowered”. This was the message that resounded at the Oring-ao Hall of Teachers Camp during the recent CAR Regional Consumer Convention held in

Baguio City.

A good number of participants representing various organizations, local government units, senior citizens, civic and women’s groups including persons with disabilities convened in Baguio City in

what is to be the first regional convention that discusses the plight of consumers, senior citizens and the disabled.

The convention led by the Department of Trade and Industry with the support of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Health (DOH) will continue on **Cont. on page 9**

BCDA Press Statement

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) views the filing of the libel complaint by Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevco) against the BCDA Board of Directors as an act of harassment that is obviously intended to derail the BCDA’s efforts in holding CJHDevco accountable for its acts and omissions. The BCDA also denounces the complaint as malicious and baseless, not to mention a mere smokescreen to cover up the real issue – that is, CJHDevco’s failure and refusal to pay rentals to the Government for their use of Camp John Hay. The rentals, which already amount to P3 Billion, are supposed to be turned over to the National Government and the local government of Baguio City for use in development programs and projects for the benefit of the Filipino people.

The BCDA maintains that there was no malice or falsehood in the notice it published in April

2012. The BCDA only acted in the performance its duty to protect the public interest in Camp John Hay. Moreover, the notice was based on findings of facts, orders, and resolutions issued by various government agencies. Any question that CJHDevco may have as to the veracity of these findings of facts and conclusions should be raised properly before the government agency that made them.

As regards the lease agreement between the BCDA and CJHDevco, the term is not for a period of 50 years, as claimed by CJHDevco. It is clear in Article II, Section 2 of the 1996 Lease Agreement that the term of the lease is only twenty-five years, renewable for another twenty-five years. Article II, Sec. 2 of the said agreement provides: “Unless sooner terminated for reasons specified in this Agreement, this Agreement shall have a term of twenty-five (25)

years, renewable for another twenty-five (25) years under the same terms and conditions at the option of the LESSEE, effective upon the signing of this Agreement. Within ninety (90) days immediately prior to the expiration of the 25-year period, the LESSEE shall manifest its desire to renew the lease.”

The renewal is not a vested right but merely an option. The renewal is not automatic but subject to negotiations by the parties upon exercise of the option.

This contractual provision is based on Article XII, Section 3 of the Constitution, which provides: “...Private corporations or associations may not hold such alienable lands of the public domain except by lease, for a period not exceeding 25 years, renewable for not more than 25 years...”

Earlier, CJHDevco filed a perjury complaint against BCDA President and CEO Arnel Casanova on the Estafa complaint that BCDA filed against **Cont. on page 10**



THE
JUNCTION

Bing Dawang - Editor (on leave)

Odell “Bombito” Aquino - OIC (on leave)

Freddie Farres - Consultant

Support Staff:

Nelson Tuaño

Danilo B. Javier

Gerry P. Binwagan

John T. Bagayan

Orwen L. Trazo

Annabelle Pedronio

Regular Columnists:

Atty. James S. Valeros

Atty. Batas Mauricio

Arturo Boquiren

Emilio Liwanen

Grace Bandoy

Odell “Bombito” Aquino

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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino The Junction-OIC

Mayor Orders ‘Buy Back’ of ERS Fertilizer

BAGUIO CITY – the city government will enforce the agreement it has forged with the company which introduced the multi-million Environmental Recycling System (ERS) machines here.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan has reiterated the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) it signed with Pro Tech Machinery Corporation for the buy back of the compost fertilizer, a by-product of the ERS machines in his Administrative Order 72.

As stipulated in the MOA, Protech is obliged to buy back the organic fertilizer or animal feed produced by the ERS machines at a pick-up price of P6.00 per kilo with a net weight of 40 kilograms per sack or P240.

The mayor said P22.00 will be slashed in the purchase price for Protech of the fertilizers per sack as they are the one's providing the sack and its appropriate labels.

This would mean Protech would be paying the City government P218.00 per sack of organic fertilizer produced by the ERS machines.

It can be recalled that the City entered into a MOA with Protech through its principal Shimizu and Company, Ltd of Nagasaki, Japan for the purchase and installation of 2 units ERS 5 machines for its biodegradable wastes which is now being processed at the city's composting plant in Irisan.

A sixty day payment term is also extended to the corporation from each withdrawal of the organic fertilizer from the composting facility.

The stored bags of fertilizer the Irisan Composting Facility has reached a substantial amount ever since the ERS machines started operation./paul rillorta

Rotary hands Over x-ray Machine to BGHMC

As chief of a regional hospital that serves patients from other regions, Dr. Manuel Factora couldn't underestimate the value of a brand new Shimadzu mobile x-ray machine that members of Rotary turned over last Thursday to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

The machine, Factora stressed, will be crucial for the examination of patients that, because of their critical condition, can not be moved to the regular x-ray room for the procedure.

The donation of the P1.5 million machine was a collaboration of the donor Rotary clubs of Taoyuan Daxing and Bailing, both in Taiwan with the Rotary Club of Manila Metro, Rotary Districts 3810 and 3500 and the Bell Church, Inc.

“The donor Rotarians contacted me, saying they wanted to provide the medical a mobile x-ray machine,” said Dr. Manuel Quirino, national president of Bell Church and a medical specialist at the BGHMC. “Some officers of the Rotary are also members of the Bell Church, that's why.”

With him and Factora at the turn-over were visiting members of the Rotary donor clubs, Richard Lee, Lee-Yuan-Hong, Lai Kuei Chin, George Ang, Peter Ngo, Carlos Chianpian, Marites Ang, Rotary Manila Metro president Benny Baladad and Dr. Rey Leung and Dr. Sergio So, head of the BGHMC's radiology department.

Baladad, who grew up in Baguio, explained the donation is one of two machines turned over under the Global Grant program of Rotary International, with the BGHMC and the Philippine General Hospital as recipients.

“This (gesture of Rotary), indeed,. Builds better understanding,” Factora told the visiting Rotarians.before medical center chaplain, Fr. German Ledesma, blessed the x-ray unit./RD.

City Considers Amendments to ‘no Plastic use’

BAGUIOCITY – the city government is taking a cautious leap towards attaining its goal of implementing the paper bag ordinance here.

City Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the Executive Legislative Meeting said, ‘the strict implementation of the Paper Bag Ordinance is a good step towards

minimizing the use of plastic and sando bags in the city, which when used improperly ends up in canals and garbage piles’.

However, Domogan said, ‘amendments to the said ordinance is needed considering that there are still concerns that need to be resolved.’

As per reports during Legislative

Tracking conducted by the city's Sangunian Panlungsod

Research division, reactions on the implementation of the ordinance showed mixed reactions.

‘The city should have listed in the ordinance all other biodegradable bagging products which may be used and available in the local market’, the report read.



DO IT AS SCHEDULED PLEASE — *Baguio motorist and residents' patience is wearing thin as some road contractors does not follow the construction projects continue to be delayed resulting to traffic congestion to the detriment of the public and motorists./By Bong Cayabyab*

Commuters Face P200 Fine for Litter Thrown from Vehicle

BAGUIOCITY – drivers may face sanctions for not providing garbage receptacles inside their Public Utility Vehicles (PUV) and commuters will be sanctioned for throwing litterers out of a moving vehicle.

Section 3 of City Ordinance Number 32 s 1995 approved by Mayor Mauricio Domogan eight years ago is now being monitored strictly.

In fact, the ordinance will be strengthened in order to instill discipline in the heart of every resident and bring back Baguio as the cleanest and greenest city.

Commuters caught throwing litter out of a moving vehicle will be slapped a fine of P200.00.

Litters include candy wrapper, paper, plastic and anything that is thrown indiscriminately, the most common of which is cigarette butt.

Drivers and operators of PUV's, while traversing city streets are tasked to inform their passengers to throw their litter in receptacles provided in order to refrain from throwing it outside.

PUV's without garbage receptacles installed in their vehicles will also be fined P500.00.

Section 4 of said ordinance also mandates jeepney, taxi, bus operators and drivers associations with a loading or unloading terminal and plying the city's street to assign members to clean litter and garbage the route they are traversing.

Refusal or failure to cooperate in the matter of cleaning the city street principally traversed by vehicles of their members would mean revocation, denial and non-renewal of the association's application or permit for loading, unloading, terminal or parking station in the city.

Presently, the Sangunian Panglungsod Research division is conducting Legislative Tracking and information dissemination on the implementation of said litter law.

The city is considering amendments that will strengthen its implementation and is contemplating on higher penalties for litter bugs./paul rillorta

Others said the source of biodegradable bagging containers should have been determined and provided and additional exemptions to the ordinance for establishments serving hot and liquid products which could not be placed in paper bags.

Others even questioned the use of 'paper bags' as these are made from wood

pulp derived from trees.

The ordinance is clear however that establishments are required to use paper bags, buri bags and 'other biodegradable materials' including paper boxes and cartons for all dry goods and groceries instead of plastic bags.

Except for goods sold in the public market wet section such as fresh meat, fish, vegetables and fruits which may be packed in plastic containers and sando bags provided they are placed in shopping bags allowed in the ordinance.

The said ordinance.

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Scrapping Old Tags

“What are chances of scrapping, for good, the derisive tag of the Philippines as the region’s never-do-well?”, Manuel de la Torre emailed. His query stemmed from the economy’s 6.4 percent surge in the first quarter.

That growth, tracked by by analysts from Standard & Poor to Hongkong Shanghai Bank trounced earlier market consensus: “GDP growth is forecast to recover to 4.8 percent in 2012.”

That ranked the Philippines “Asia’s second fastest-growing economy after China”. Once Asean’s perennial “laggard”, the Philippines grew faster Indonesia (6.3 percent), Vietnam (four percent), Singapore (1.6 percent) and Thailand (0.3 percent), National Statistical Coordination Board said.

Is this smoke-and-mirrors? Does the feel-good mood stem from what people call a “halo effect”? asked “Banyan” column in the Economist.

EDITORIAL

“In a country fond of nicknames...the unlikely saint is (Benigno Aquino III) known as Noynoy, or P-Noy,” Banyan adds. He swept to power in 2010, partly on a wave of affection... for Corazon Aquino, the first president after the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. An undistinguished record as a senator did little to build (P-Noy’s) hopes of a bold presidency.”

P-Noy is an aberration in a country where politicians salivate to take over Malacanang. Like his mother, he was prodded into running. Once elected, P-Noy crosses off, on a calendar the days until his term ends, just as his mother did.” That’s another of those unverifiable yarns.

Aquino went on record, early on, that he’d step down in 2016. This heeds the constitutional ban on president re-election. That stance buttresses P-Noy clout for reform. He has not been dogged by the corruption charges that shackled predecessor Marcos, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Once, the Philippines was the basket case of Southeast Asia, David Pilling of Financial Times recalled. It’s gross domestic product of US\$2,200 per capita bracketed it with Bolivia. Manila was way behind Bangkok with a GDP per capita of US\$5,400.

“But there are definite signs that the country – with its young population of nearly 100 million people, the world’s 12th largest – has turned a corner.”. In it’s study of the world in 2050, Hong Kong Shanghai Bank highlights “the striking rise of the Philippines, which is set to become the world’s 16th-largest economy, up 27 places.”

“There are three reasons to be hopeful, if not yet exactly cheerful “, the Financial Times says: “First, the external position improved dramatically”. Manila is a net creditor to the International Monetary Fund. Overseas remittances from the roughly eight million Filipinos working abroad held steady despite Middle East turmoil.

“Second, the country is getting its fiscal house in order.” The deficit has narrowed to a manageable 2 per cent.... Subsidies on fuel and power, the bane of many Asian Finance Ministers, were scrapped several years ago”.

“Third, the political situation is vastly improved.” The conviction of a Supreme Court chief justice is about big fish.” Tax evaders are being tracked down. “The tax take has edged up even without necessary tax reform. That a sitting President can be stripped of land (like Hacienda Luisita) is a hopeful sign that the separation of powers enshrined in the constitution is being honored..”

After the nine-year presidency of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, which in its final years was widely seen as corrupt. Aquino is “liked as a welcome change”, the Economist states. “He has gained kudos for trying to bring GMA, presently detained, to account”. That includes fresh tenders for “suspicious contracts awarded by Mrs Arroyo’s government ...and clean-ups in the tax and customs authorities.

(Pulse Asia survey conducted nationwide from May 20 to 26 Mr. Aquino scored an approval rating of 67 percent, down 70 percent in March. Parallel surveys by Social Weather Station find the President holding unprecedented “good” ratings over the last two years)

Can these reforms be sustained? The Philippines is a country where “giving things a sleek appearance sometimes seems to matter more than fixing sordid reality.”

The economic prospects are good. The stock market has been one of the world’s rare performers this year. The population is young, the banking sector strong, mineral wealth still abundant. The economic potential of

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1st-APLUMA!

KABUHAYAN 101- “Skake It Baby”

BY: ISMAEL AMIGO SR

Hindi po talaga tayo tinantanang ng isang letter-writer na nagnanais matuto o maglunsad ng isang “Shake it Baby” small scale business.

Mayroon din po nag-request sa atin na mag-guest sa isang radio show hinggil seguro sa atin pong natalakay kamakailan tungkol sa negosyong paghahayupan of which we begged off from attending owing to other engagements arranged previously or ealier.

Nevertheless, mariin po tayong nagpapasalamat sa naturang imbitasyon na galing sa isang respetadong AM radio station.

Medyo shy pa po kami sa mga ganyan ngunit maraming salamat po’t hayaan niyo sa susunod sisikapin na po ng inyong lingkod na makadahupang palad po kayo.

Samantalam balikan po muna natin ang ating masugid na letter-writer na pinaulanan tayo ng text messages kamakalawa.

Ang kanya pong nais malaman ay kung paano gumawa ng mga panindang “shakes” pati na kung paano ang timpla upang makagawa o magluto ng isang chicken joy.

Ang payo po nating ibinigay tunkol sa mga shake ay narito para na rin sa kaalaman ng iba nating mga kababayan.

Sabi po natin ay hindi na tinitimpla ang anumang flavor ng shake maging ito’y chocolate, mango, coffee, pandan at iba pa maliban po sa buko shake na nakasanayan nap o nating haluan talaga ng fresh buko.

Ang lahat po ng flavor ng shake ay hindi po super secret as in yung sikat lang na magshe-shake ang nakaka-alam kung saan mabibili ang mga sangkap.

May isang lugar po sa Divisoria na sadyang tindahan o bilihan ng iba’t-ibang uri ng flavor sa pagshe-shake.

Magsadya po kayo roon at mamili na lamang ng inyo pong nais na mga flavor at kapag may blender at ice shaver napo kayo sa bahay, tiyak paguwi niyo kinabukasan may negosyo na kayong “Shake it Baby.”

Ngunit teka lamang, kelangan niyo rin po segurong malaman ang sistema ano po?

Okay simplehan pa natin.

Sa isang 12 ounce na baso ng shake, narito po ang basic ingredients:

1. Arnibal (tinunaw po na brown sugar po ito) ¼ cup
2. Skimmed milk ¼ cup
3. Shaved ice (10 pieces of cube ice)
4. Shake flavoring ¼ cup

Depende po sa gusto ninyong lasa ay maari po ninyong dagdagan ng kaunti maliban po sa piraso ng cube ice na nasubukan napo namin.

Pero syempre kapag mas malaking baso, mas madami ang karampatang timpla.

Hanggang sa susunod po sumulat lamang po kayo sa esns03@yahoo.com para po sa inyo mga katanungan.

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

Pacman Defeat is a Win!

BY: JESUS DUREZA



PACMAN WON! — There will be unending “expert” analysis and “tsismis”, speculations, investigations, even anger about Pacman’s lose to Bradley. For a while I was in disbelief myself. He clearly won the title. Aside from his one billion peso guaranteed purse with Bradley in last week’s fight, there’s another billion peso kitty forthcoming in the rematch. If he won, there would have been no expected rematch, and no billion peso purse again, right? No need to investigate and change the verdict. Pacman lost but won big!

DIVORCE — I hope my friend Congresswoman Luz Ilagan seriously reconsiders her support to the divorce bill. During my active law practice days, I handled legal separation, concubinage, adultery and other family relations cases. I saw up close how children were the ultimate victims of broken marriages. While the innocent spouse angrily seeks separation, it is usually the guilty spouse who is rewarded. Waving the separation order, the latter immediately makes a dash to the nearest marrying minister to validate an existing illicit relationship which is usually the cause of the break-up. So why reward the erring ones? A legal separation, which does not allow a re-marriage, is enough to punish the bad. And give relative peace to the innocent. The children who are caught in between are thereby insulated from more confusion and trauma.

ANNULMENT FOR SALE — Many are no longer surprised seeing some unhappy spouses, who can afford, get an annulment. Yes folks, there is such a thing as “over the counter” annulment that comes so quick and easy. It’s open secret that for P200,000 or so, an annulment (that allows a re-marriage) is easy to get. Never mind if the legal grounds are flimsy.

“SUKI” JUDGES — If you want to find out where those annulment decrees are manufactured, simply check with NSO (national statistics office) where these annulment decrees are recorded to give them effect. There are “favorite” or “suki” judges who are notorious for this. They make a killing from desperate couples. There is one in Cotabato, if you want proof. If we cannot straighten this out, then there’s even no more need for a divorce. In our time and age, we have instant coffees, instant food, instant ready to wear items, even instant babies! Include instant annulments.

* * * *

FOR ORDINARY FOLKS — The poor cannot afford annulment, legal separation, and divorce, (if approved). Only the rich can, due to the expense and the process involved. Why not also pass a law to allow the poor to just go to the nearest police stations, enter into the police blotters the info that both spouses have agreed to have a divorce. Then they both authenticate the blotter entry with their signatures. A copy of the blotter extract will then serve as the separation decree. For the rich: have cash and re-marry! For the poor: just blotter and re-marry! How’s that for an equalizer!

INVESTMENTS — President Noynoy proudly announced \$2.5 billion dollars coming in new investments from his foreign trip. Still money to come and up in the air, I suppose. But what about Sagittarius Mines Inc.’s \$5.9 billion dollar project? So far, the national government refuses to favorably act to make this happen.

How can we credibly attract new foreign investors to come when we do not even take care of investors who have come and are here with us? Worse, we’re even trying to shoo them away! So sad!

* * * *

SMI CRITICS — I was on the same plane with Davao del Sur Gov. Dodo Cagas last Wednesday enroute to Manila. He said he visited the Tampakan mine area of Sagittarius Mines recently and he is convinced that SMI will bring a good future for his constituents in the south. He lashed at the critics who kept claiming that the project is doing harm to the environment. He said: “There are no trees in the area contrary to their claims that SMI was cutting down trees. In fact, the company will reforest the cogonal areas for the future. I know they will even enhance the environment with their plans.” The gover- **Cont. on page 9**

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

JBC Violating Constitution?

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE’S INSPIRATIONS: “... he calls his own sheep by name...” (John 10:3, the Holy Bible).

-ooo-

PRAYERS FOR DOLPHY: To all of us who laughed and were endlessly entertained by Dolphy, the Philippine Comedy King, it is time to show our appreciation for him: let us all pray that God in His great mercy will continue to bestow the favor of good health to him, even as he furiously fights for his life at the Makati Medical Center now.

-ooo-

RH BILL IS NOT THE SOLUTION, SEN. PIA: Sen. Pia Cayetano, the solution to the ever-increasing maternal mortality rate, or the number of mothers dying during childbirth, is not passing a law that would allow even baby girls to kill children in their wombs, such as the Reproductive Health Bill. The solution is finding ways to prosper husbands and wives, so they could be given the economic capability to prepare for their children.

What the Senate should work on, after wasting its time on a useless impeachment proceeding whose outcome was well-known long before its termination, should be laws that would create more jobs, induce more local and foreign investments, and, yes, even spiritual uplift of more Filipinos. The problem is, it would seem no one in the Senate wants to pursue these laws.

-ooo-

TOUGH BALANCING ACT RE: NEW MINING RULES: It would be a tough balancing act for President Aquino when he finally signs a new executive order prescribing revised rules covering the mining industry in the country. Certainly, he has to see to it that more investments in mining will be generated by the new rules, to enable more capital to come in, so more jobs and economic opportunities could be generated for our people.

But then, the President also has to consider the environmental impact of more liberal mining rules, especially with powerful personalities rallying behind the call to preserve and protect the environment and the ecological systems where mining activities are being undertaken. It would be interesting to find out how the new mining rules will work to balance all of these interests.

In the meantime, all that Filipinos could do now is to pray that President Aquino is thoroughly guided by God in this endeavor. As we have said often enough here, the prayer of a righteous man is both powerful and effective (James 5:16 of the Bible). Also, in 1 Timothy 2:2, we who believe are asked to pray for our rulers and kings, so all of us could live in peace.

-ooo-

JBC VIOLATING CONSTITUTION? Sen. Francis Escudero’s statements on who should be—or who should not be—chosen as the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has given rise to an interesting sidebar: is he legally sitting as a member of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC)? The question is valid, considering the Constitutional provision on the membership of the JBC, which says that the legislature will have just one representative.

At this point, however, there are two representatives of the legislature in the JBC. The first is Escudero, and the second is Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., the chairman of the justice committee of the House of Representatives. Both Escudero and Tupas are sitting as JBC members, apparently in violation of the Constitution.

Former Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing raised this point earlier, and we wrote about it here in this column, but those involved chose to remain silent about it. Now that the JBC is facing a milestone in choosing the new chief justice, it is well to address this point now: is the Constitution violated by the presence of two representatives from Congress at the JBC? Since this has been the practice ever since, were all **Cont. on page 9**

Notice To The Public

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Email : gsecministry@yahoo.com

Mayor Sets Rules on Waste Management Transfer

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week set the rules for the transfer of the solid waste management from the city environment and parks management office (CEPMO) to the general services office (GSO).

In his Administrative Order No. 75, the mayor said the guidelines will “draw the line and define the roles and responsibilities of the departments concerned” to ensure the smooth transition of the management of said basic service.

As per the order, the transfer will involve the solid waste management division with its entire personnel complement of 179 plantilla positions and budgetary requirements of P31 million covering personnel, operating costs and capital outlays.

The mayor also mandates that all major development programs funded from all sources relative to solid waste shall be coordinated by the GSO with the various departments and concerned national government offices for immediate implementation.

The GSO will also take over the task of reviewing all solid waste policies and recommend appropriate measures to address the current situation including the updating of the ten-year solid waste management plan.

The GSO was also tasked to “immediately proceed with the operations and ensure that all priority activities supportive of the entire solid waste management program of the city are properly implemented.”

The mayor requested the city council to cause the realignment of the P31 million fund from the CEPMO to GSO.

The mayor said the transfer was needed considering that the problem has become emergent and that the CEPMO under officer-in-charge Cordelia Lacsamana had to be relieved of the waste management task since it has been handling other huge responsibilities.

GSO head Romeo Concio used to head the garbage management program of the city in the 1990s when the solid waste division was under the general services office./A Refuerzo

Practice Driving in South Drive Prohibited

BAGUIO CITY – Acting on complaints as to road safety and traffics situation, Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week issued Administrative Order 78, s. or 2012 prohibiting the use of South Drive road as practice driving area.

The order is in consonance with the local government code of the Philippines which “mandates local governments to impose policies, rules and regulations and guidelines governing the implementation of projects and programs that result to the general welfare of the people.”

Accordingly, practice driving in South Drive road poses a serious threat to student drivers and the motoring public as it has resulted to heavy traffic flow in the area.

During the weekly media ugnayan, Mayor Domogan confirmed that the Baguio City Police Office Traffic Management Branch has validated the complaints through observation during various times of the day.

For the improvement of the traffic flow and road safety, thus, signages shall be installed by the City Engineer’s Office along the whole road stretch.

Strict implementation of the prohibition and apprehension of violators is also instructed to the BCPO-TMB./juliegfianza

OCD Tells Public to be Prepared at all Times

BAGUIO CITY - With the onset of the rainy season, the Office of the Civil Defense - Cordillera(OCD-CAR) is warning the public to be alert and check their surroundings for a possible landslide to avoid damage to life and property.

According to Engr. Jojo Valera of the OCD, the Cordillera region is prone to mud slides that may lead to disaster.

“If there is a strong typhoon coming, we should prepare for it and be ready by checking the waterways near our houses and we must clear our canals and drainage system to

avoid loosening of the soil,” he added.

The OCD is regularly issuing advices or tips for disaster preparedness like: When a disaster occurs, family members may be separated. It must be decided in advance what steps everyone in the family will take to get back to-

Cont. on page 10

Mayor Forms Bodies to Jumpstart Work on Streetlight Project

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week formed three bodies to jumpstart the bidding of the streetlight replacement and management venture using the Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology.

In Administrative Order No. 77, the mayor created a special bids and awards committee, the technical working group and secretariat to expedite the processing of procurement documents and facilitate the bidding.

The project involves the replacement of all existing streetlights, park lights and all other lights located at overpasses, flyovers and city government-owned buildings and including repair and maintenance with LED bulbs and repair and the maintenance on a private-public partnership and a cost-savings share scheme.

The mayor said the city is now ready to expedite the project which he earlier committed to fast-track.

An inventory of the city’s streetlights was completed recently to firm up the terms of reference for the venture approved by the city council.

The bids committee will be chaired by city administrator Carlos Canilao and city budget officer Leticia Clemente.

Assistant city accountant Almaya Addawe will chair the technical working group while the secretariat will be led by administrative officer Arnulgo Baldos.

As per the approved TOR, the deal will involve the replacement of all streetlights, park lights, including lights in overpasses, flyovers and City Government owned buildings and facilities.

The deal aims to enable the city government to cut on electric cost which presently runs to more or less P38 million a year using energy saving bulbs having a longer life span and environmentally friendly that do not bring damage to people’s health./A Refuerzo

Congressman, Dep-Ed Asked to Secure More Funds for Expansion of City Schools

BAGUIO CITY – The city council on Monday urged Rep. Bernardo Vergara and the Dept. of Education (DepEd) to source out additional funds for the expansion of the different school facilities in the city.

In a resolution authored by Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas, the body said the city needs additional funding to acquire lands, construct buildings and purchase school equipment to meet the rising number of students.

“To cater to the increasing population of students in the city, which drastically increased in a very short period of time, there is a need to modernize the different educational facilities and amenities to serve these students. Public schools in the city lack decent facilities and amenities which would cater to the various school activities thus the need to modernize and expand the same,” Farinas noted.

“These modernization and expansion projects would be a great help for the students and a stepping stone for the government towards educational empowerment and nation-building,” he said.

The body said Vergara and the Dep-Ed must work on securing more funds to realize these projects./A Refuerzo

CSC Pushes for Better Civil Service and Administrative Governance

BAGUIO CITY - - “Gawing Lingkod Bayani Bawat Kawani (Making all civil servants heroes, in doing public service)”.

This is the present thrust and motto of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), according to CSC Assistant Commissioner Ariel Ronquillo during

the Regional Summit on Administrative Governance held at the Hotel Supreme here, Thursday, which was attended by hundreds of officials and representatives from the different various government line agencies and local government units in the Cordillera.

“The core purpose of the CSC is

to convert all government workers into civil servant heroes. In a sense, that they are doing their job wholeheartedly, efficiently and effectively and work beyond the call of duty wherein they will not need to wait for their client and will give the services the people deserve and work

Cont. on page 10

City Steps up Smoking Prohibition as Mayor Calls for Amendment of Ordinance

BAGUIO CITY – The city government will fortify the implementation of the smoking prohibition within its premises even as Mayor Mauricio Domogan called for the strengthening of the city’s anti-smoking ordinance. The mayor said the city council should amend Ordinance No. 8 series of 2008 or the Comprehensive Anti-Smoking Ordinance of Baguio City and its Implementing Rules and Regulations to clarify the definition of public places where smoking is supposed to be banned as the seeming vague definition led to the acquittal of one violator by the courts recently.

He said this grey area has to be resolved to make the ordinance effective.

The mayor last June 14 issued the implementing guidelines for the imposition of anti-smoking measure pursuant to CSC Memorandum Circular No. 17 series of 2009 entitled Smoking Prohibition Based on 100-Percent Smoke-free Environment Policy.

The memorandum reinforces the city ordinance which the city government has also been observing.

In his Administrative Order No. 73, the mayor said the guidelines follow the guiding principle that a healthy workplace is a productive workplace where smokers are encouraged to quit, people are protected from exposure to second-hand smoke, health care costs are lowered and clean-up costs are reduced.

The rules apply to all officials and employees along with the people entering city government offices for any transaction.

Under the guidelines, the city mayor will designate a smoking area based on requirements, cause the posting of smoking area signs and decide cases that may arise.

An implementation committee will be formed with the following duties: assign a focal person per department to act as policy enforcer; investigate complaints and reports of violations; determine whether there is a prima facie case; recommend appropriate action to the city mayor; maintain records of violations and ensure that the designated smoking area complies with the requirements.

The guidelines also cover the handling of complaints and disciplinary action or sanctions where first-time offenders face suspension for one to six months and dismissal for second-time violators.

The city has been conducting orientation or dissemination on the memorandum through a series of orientation seminars among employees./A Refuerzo

City Nutrition Evaluation Team Created

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week issued Administrative Order 76, s. or 2012, creating the monitoring and validation committee or the City Nutrition Evaluation Team (CNET).

Representatives from different offices compose the committee: from the Department of Interior and Local Government, chairman; from the City Health Services Office, Co-chairman; and members are from the Sangguniang Panlungsod Committee on Health and Sanitation, Ecology and Environmental Protection, City Planning and Development Office, City Social Welfare and Development Office, Special Services Division-City Mayor’s Office, and a Non-Government Office specifically promoting nutrition development programs.

The creation of the CNET is in consonance with City Ordinance 34, s. of 2008 which mandates the celebration of July as nutrition month, providing funds for the activities of said celebration, and institutionalizing the search for Outstanding Volunteer Barangay Nutrition Scholar (BNS), Barangay Nutrition Action Officer (BNAO), and the Best Performing Barangay Nutrition Committee (BNC).

The newly-created CNET is expected to work for the celebration of July as nutrition month, as it reviews guidelines for the search, develop the evaluation tool and criteria and identify indicators for the search and nutrition month celebration./juliegfianza

MOA Forged for Benguet- Vizcaya Road Clean up Drive

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - In its bid to sustain environmental sanitation along the Benguet Vizcaya Road, a memorandum of agreement was forged among four local government units covering the road stretch for a clean-up drive

every second Friday of the month.

to institutionalize the clean up drive in support to Republic Act 9003 otherwise known as the Ecological Cont. on page 10

City Mourns Media Matriarch’s Passing

BAGUIO CITY – The city council on Monday approved a resolution lamenting the passing of media matriarch Cecile C. Afable.

Afable, editor-in-chief of the Baguio Midland Courier, died of a lingering illness last June 12 at the age of 95. She was laid to rest last June 20 at the Baguio City cemetery.

“(We) express deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences of the City of Baguio to the bereaved family of the late Cecile Carino Afable..,” the city council noted.

“(Mrs. Afable), together with former Vice Mayor Virginia De Guia and the late Engr. Leonora “Leonie” Paraan-San Agustin, were loved for their untiring efforts in establishing advocacies for the social, cultural and moral benefits and developments of the community of the City of Baguio, which no doubt benefited also the neighboring areas of the lowlands and the Cordilleras.”

Mayor Mauricio Domogan also condoled with Afable’s family saying that the illustrious newshen was hailed nationally and internationally.

The city council resolution recalls Afable’s beginnings thus:

“The late CECILE CARINO AFABLE was born in Baguio City on November 11, 1918. She studied at the Baguio Central University and the Mountain Province High School (now Baguio City National High School). Then after, she took up Philosophy at the University of the Philippines where was tagged as the first female Ibaloi to be admitted at the country’s state-run premier university;

“She then joined her elder siblings, Mr. Sinai and Mr. Oseo Carino Hamada, in founding the Baguio Midland Courier at a time when Baguio was starting to rebuild from the ruins of the World War II;

“She was also very active in community services and rendered unconditional passion in helping the women of Baguio and of Indigenous groups. She served as a punong barangay in her own baragnay, further as President and Board Member of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, the Young Women Christian Association, the Baguio Women’s Club and the first BIBAK assemblies.”/A Refuerzo

Balili River Coalition Primes Forest, Vegetative and Infra Projects along the River System

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - The Balili River System Revitalization Coalition (BRSRC) is priming projects and activities in sustaining the rehabilitation of the Balili river through planting of forest and vegetative materials and strengthening of infrastructure along the river banks of the Balili River.

Benguet State University (BSU) is planting forest and other vegetative materials incorporating clean up drive activities along the stretch of the Balili river through the National Service Training Program (NSTP) students, according to BSU Dean of Forestry Dante Chichioco.

NSTP students adopted the span of the river along BSU and were assigned as stewards of designated sections, said Chichioco, who is also representing the coalition’s key result area on infrastructure.

He said the steering committee of the National Greening Program (NGP) in the province recognized the importance of greening along the river banks as potential areas for planting. But with the lack of seedlings, the committee clamored for convergence initiatives among concerned agencies or organizations for the propagation of seedlings, he said.

For the infrastructure rehabilitation efforts, P14.86 million was earmarked for this year for flood control rehabilitation and repair including dredging along the Balili River, according to Benguet Engineering District I Acting Assistant District Engineer Benedicta Mendoza.

Pending its release, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Rogelio Singson requested the release of the amount from the Comptrollership and Finance Management Service at DPWH Central Office with the bidding of the project to follow suit, said Mendoza.

A big chunk of the amount will be used for the dredging of all wastes obstructing the river, Mendoza bared./JDP/SCA-PIA CAR, Benguet

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
La Trinidad, Benguet

RODOLFO BECYA,

Mortgagee,

-versus-

REVELINDA B. BARENG,
Mortgagor.

FORECLOSURE CASE NO: 12-ExF-1572

FOR:
EXTRAJUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, as amended

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for extra-judicial foreclosure of real mortgage, under Act 3135 as amended, filed by RODOLFO BECYA, with principal place of business address at Tabangaoen, La Trinidad, Benguet,

herein referred as the Mortgagee for the satisfaction of the obligation of REVELINDA B. BARENG, with residence and postal address at 1Marymount Compound, La Vista, Quezon City, herein referred as the Mortgagors, in real estate mortgage duly executed on May 10, 2011.

Thant as of 06 June 2012, the above-named mortgagor, REVELINDA B. BARENG, indebted to the mortgagee in the amount of TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN THOUSAND PESOS (P 219,000.00), Philippine Burrency, including penalties, and charges, notarial fees and other necessary expenses incurred by the Mortgagee in the enforcement of the Extra judicial Foreclosure Case and other incidental expenses of the foreclosure proceedings.

That the undersigned Sheriff announces that he will sell at Public Auction on 10 July 2012 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in front of the Bulwagan ng Katarungan (Benguet Justice Hall), Justice Hill,

La Trinidad, Benguet, to the highest bidder for CASH and in the Philippine Currency, the mortgage real property including all improvements erected thereon to the following described properties to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-61500

REGISTRY OF DEEDS OF PROVINCE OF BENGUET

“A parcel of land (Lot 1-B-2-A, Psd-CAR-013684), being a portion of Lot 1-B-2, Psd-012195. Rurban Code of 131110. Situated at Barangay Pico, Municipality of La Trinidad, Province of Benguet, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NW., along line 1-2 by along line 3-4 by Lot 1-B-2-C, both of the subdivision plan; and on the SW., along line 4-1 by Lot 1-B-9 (Road Lot 6.50 m. wide) Psd-CAR-012195. Beginning at a point marked “1” on plan, being N.13 deg. 40’W., 2380.32 m. from Triangulation Station “LIMESTONE”, thence

N. 85 deg. 25’E., 9.64 m. to point 2; S. 12 DEG. 18’E., 11.50 m. to point 3;

S. 85 deg. 25’W., 9.64 m. to point 4; N. 12 deg. 18’W., 11.50 m. to point of beginning. Containing an area of ONE HUNDRED TEN (110) SQUARE METERS more or less. x x x x x x.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date. Interested/ Prospective buyers/ bidders may investigate to the titles themselves the properties herein above-described encumbrances thereof, if any there be.

In the event that he said auction sale in the state date, time, and place shall not proceed, it shall be held on 31 July 2012 without need of further notice. La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines, this 14th day of June 2012.

FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFF EX-OFFICIO OF BENGUET
By:

By: (SGD)
JOSELITO F. SALES
Sheriff IV

cc. RODOLFO BECYA
REVELINDA B. BARENG

Publication Dates :
June 16, 23 and 30, 2012

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH AFFIDAVIT OF SELF ADJUDICATION AND SIMULTANEOUS WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the Intestate Estate of MALICCHAN who died on March 1, 1960, at Kadaclan, Barlig Mt. Province and covered under Tax Declaration No. 5419 with an area of .0290 hec., has been the subject of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate with Affidavit of Self Adjudication an Simultaneous Waiver of Rights executed by his lone heir on June 4, 2012 as per document No. 103, page No. 21, Book No. VIII, Series of 2012 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. John B. Balao-as of Baguio City, Philippines.

Publication Dates: June 16, 23 & 30, 2012

Walter William’s Journalist’s Creed

This creed was written by Walter Williams (1864-1935), the man who founded the world’s first school of journalism at the University of Missouri and perhaps contributed more toward the promotion of professional journalism than any other person of his time.

I believe in the profession of Journalism.

I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of lesser service than the public service is a betrayal of this trust.

I believe that clear thinking, clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism.

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true. I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one’s own pocket book is as much to be avoided as bribery by the pocketbook of another; that individual responsibility may not be escaped by pleading another’s instructions or another’s dividends.

I believe that advertising, news and editorial columns should alike serve the best interests of readers; that a single standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for all; that supreme test of good journalism is the measure of its public service.

I believe that the journalism which succeeds the best-and best deserves success-fears God and honors man; is stoutly independent; unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power; constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-controlled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always unafraid, is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed by the appeal of the privilege or the clamor of the mob; seeks to give every man a chance, and as far as law, an honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while sincerely promoting international good will and cementing world-comradeship, is a journalism of humanity, of and for today’s world. /http://www.nationalpressclub.org.ph

RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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We believe that the Golden Rule applies to animals, too. We don’t accept the prevailing notion that “people come first” or that “people are more important than animals.” Animals feel pain and suffer just as we do, and it is almost always humans making animals suffer and not the other way around. Yet in spite of how cruelly people behave towards animals – not to mention human cruelty to other humans- we are supposed to believe that humans are superior to other animals. If people want to fancy themselves as being of greater moral worth than the other creatures on this earth, we should begin behaving better than they do, and not worse. Let’s start treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves.

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno www.linisgobyerno.org

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT, BRANCH
9
(FAMILY COURT
OF BENGUET
PROVINCE)
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
La Trinidad
Benguet

VCTOR B. MATIAS
JR.,

Petitioner,

-versus-

LAILANIE O.
PARAN-MATIAS,
Respondent,

SUMMARY
PROCEEDINGS
CASE NO. 12-E-
013S

For:

DECLARATION
OF PRESUMPTIVE
DEATH OF
ABSENTEE
SPOUSE

X———X

ORDER

Petitioner Vic-
tor B. Matias Jr., a
resident of Daclan,
Bokod, Benguet,
through counsel,
filed this verified pe-
tition, prying that
after due notice, pub-
lication and hearing
, LAILANIE O.
PARAN-MATIAS, an
absentee spouse, be
declared presumpt-
ively dead pursuant
to law.

WHEREFORE,
finding the petition
to be sufficient in
form and substance,
the Court sets it for

hearing on Septem-
ber 12, 2012 at 9:00
o'clock in the morn-
ing before thhe Ses-
sion Hall of this
Court, Provincial
Capitol, La Trinidad,
Benguet and all per-
sons interested may
appear and show
cause, if any, why
this petition should
not be granted.

Let this Order
be published at the
expense of the peti-
tioner at The Junc-
tion Newspaper, a
newspaper of gen-
eral circulation in
Baguio-Benguet,
once a week, for
three (3) consecutive
weeks, the first pub-
lication to be made
not later than June
24, 2012.

Furnish a copy
hereof together with
a copy of the petition
and its annexes to
the Office of the So-
licitor General,
Makati City; the
Provincial Prosecu-
tor of Benguet; the
National Statistics
Office, Manila; Lo-
cal Civil Registrar of
Bambang, Nueva
Vizcaya.; the absen-
tee at her last
known address at
Daclan, Bokod,
Benguet, wher sum-
mons and copuirt
processes may be
served; and the peti-
tioner and his coun-
sel.

SO ORDERED.

La Trinidad,
Benguet, Philip-
pines, this 15 th
day of June 2012.

By: (SGD)
FRANCIS A.
BULIYAT Sr.
Presiding Judge

Publication Dates:
June 23, 30 and
July 7, 2012 .

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the
estate of the late **GERARDO
TEODORO** who died intestate in
Hachinohe City, Japan, on 24 April
2012, consisting of a parcel of land
covered by **Katibayan Ng Orihinal
na Titulo Blg. P-3113** containing an
area of **SEVEN HUNDREDEIGHTY
THREE (783) SQUARE METERS**
located at Sto. Tomas, Baguio City,
was extrajudicially settled as per **Doc.
No. 13; Page No. 04; Book No. I;
Series of 2012 before Notary Pub-
lic Maria Victoria A. Abenes** of
Baguio City, Philippines.

Publication Dates June 23, 30 & July 7, 2012

DENR say Awaited on Writ of K a l i k a s a n Compromise.....from page1

and may contain the agency's comments
on the points of settlement raised by both
parties in the accord.

Domogan said the settlement is geared
toward the total closure of the dumpsite
and its conversion into an eco-park.

He said the city has been moving to-
wards the said direction but its efforts were
thwarted by the trash slide that occurred in
the area last year.

He said that in anticipation of the
settlement, the city is now fast-tracking the
implementation of the restoration work for
the collapsed retaining wall to be funded
by the P80 million approved by Malacanang
recently through the Dept. of Public Works
and Highways (DPWH).

He said the city is currently complet-
ing the procedural and documentary re-
quirements and will be ready to award the
project to a qualified contractor once the
process has been completed.

He said the city's Bids and Awards
Committee decided to employ the fastest
means allowed by law to award the project
so that it will be implemented and completed
soon amid the start of the rainy season./A
Refuerzo

Kakampi mo ang Batas

.....from page 5

the previous official acts of the JBC null
and void?

-ooo-

REACTIONS? Please call me at 0917
984 24 68, 0918 574 0193 and 0922 833 43 96.
Email me at batasmauricio@yahoo.com.

Advocacy Mindanow.....

.....from page 5

nor, a lawyer himself, suggested that SMI
should already go to court to question the
open pit mining ban of the South Cotabato
provincial government. "Why should a lo-
cal ordinance be allowed to prevail over
the Mining Act, a national law that allows
open pit mining?" he asked.

TIDBITS - There's a sudden big drop
of gold buying (by 90%) by the Bangko
Sentral mostly from small scale miners
when government started to strictly im-
pose the 2% excise plus 10% withholding
tax on gold sale. For the 1st quarter, it's a
dive from 7,500 to 600. Now, it's all going
to the blackmarket.

Illegal small scale mining is destroy-
ing the environment. And it robs us of our
precious resources without payback.

So, when is that much ballyhooed new
mining policy coming out? The palpable
delay is stalling progress.

With the euro in crisis, the dollar is
stronger. And the peso remains stable with
the Bangko Sentral awash with international
reserves to protect it if attacked. Thanks to
the OFWs' remittances.

Claims that the country will be self
sufficient in rice is a pipe dream unless we
can build more dams and irrigations. And
reforest.

We don't have the likes of the mighty
Mekong River of our Asian neighbors as
water source. We even lost much of our
watersheds a long time ago. Protect our
watersheds? We don't have much to pro-
tect in the first place.

Regional Consumer

..... from page 2

ment of Health, Department of Social Wel-
fare and Development and the Department
of Interior and local Government set the ini-
tial step for provincial, city and municipal
groups to form a consumer organization.
DTI-CAR Director Myrna P. Pablo who wel-
comed the participants said that such con-
sumer organization can serve as a venue
where issues and concerns of the local com-
munity can be raised and addressed.

Various speakers discussed important
matters and provisions of law that protects
the rights of consumers such as the Magna
Carta for Persons with Disability and the ac-
creditation process of consumer organiza-
tions. Engr. Danilo Fontanoz of DTI-CAR
Consumer Welfare and Trade Regulation
Division gave an overview of the Price Act
that provides protection to consumers by
stabilizing the prices of basic and prime com-
modities and measure against undue price
increases during emergency situations and
times of calamities and disasters.

Maria Odette Abitan, also of the
CWTRD explained that accredited consumer
organizations may participate in hearings
and investigation on cases affecting con-
sumers conducted by administrative or
quasi-judicial bodies. Said accredited con-
sumer organizations can likewise participate
in government's consultation activities in
formulating policies on consumer welfare
and protection and conduct advocacy pro-
grams that develop vigilant consumers.

Libertine Balicdang, Social Welfare Of-
ficer III of DSWD-CAR quoted the provi-
sions of the Magna Carta for Persons with
Disability citing that PWDs are granted with
privileges and incentives on employment,
health, education, auxiliary social services,
telecommunications, accessibility and po-
litical and civic rights. Balicdang said that
senior citizens and PWDs should assert their
entitlement of 20% discount on purchases
of medicines, medical and dental services,
fare for domestic travels, hotels, restaurants
and recreation centers such as theaters
and similar places of leisure.

It is the policy of the state to protect
the interests of every consumer explained
Atty. Samuel D. Gallardo, the Division
Head of the DTI-CAR CWBRD citing sa-
lient provisions of the Consumer Act of
the Philippines. Gallardo however ex-
plained that some implementing agencies
have their specific jurisdictions like De-
partment of Agriculture for agricultural
products, Department of Education for
consumer education and information,
Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas for consumer
credit transactions, Department of Health
for food, drugs, cosmetics and hazardous
substances and DTI for consumer prod-
uct quality and safety, deceptive, unfair
and unconscionable sales acts and prac-
tices, price tags and sales promotion
among others.

The group workshop that ensued
during the whole day activity provided
material documents in the form of policy
formulation, monitoring, enforcement as
well as information and advocacy strate-
gies.

Five delegates from the Cordillera
provinces will represent the region in next
year's national consumer convention in
Manila and the workshop's output will be
used as the basis for CAR's talking points
during said consumer convention. Art
Tibaldo/DTI-CAR

BCDA

..... from page 2

the CJHDevco for the double sale of Camp John Hay Log Home No. 9. BCDA legal counsel Demetrio Custodio, Jr. said that, “BCDA exercised due diligence and did not deliberately and willfully omit facts when it filed the estafa complaint against Robert John Sobrepena and other responsible officers of CJHDevco.”

Custodio said, “Based on all the pertinent documents available to BCDA at the time the Complaint was filed on March 9, 2012, there was ample factual and legal basis to support the estafa case against Sobrepena and his co-respondents.”

The lawyer emphasized that at the time of the dacion en pago—or payment in kind—to BCDA, the prior sale of the Voice of America (VOA) Log Home No. 9 to Wilson Sy was still existing. The Rejoinder Affidavits filed by Robert John Sobrepena, Ferdinand Santos, and Ma. Georgina Alvarez with the Department of Justice showed that CJHDevco returned the P20 Million purchase price paid by Sy only on May 18, 2012, which was the same day that Sy executed his affidavit in favor of Sobrepena.

The filing of both the perjury and libel complaints, however, will not deter BCDA from performing its duty to uphold and protect the rights and interests of the Government and the Filipino people.

Dads Weighs Rate

..... from page 2

that costs of recovery of the building should not include the space that will be occupied by the Mines View Barangay hall and Day Care Center.

They even pointed out that the computed cost for operation and maintenance of the building seems to be too much for them to handle.

However, City Budget Officer Atty. Leticia Clemente revealed the cost of recovery of the building does not include the Mines View Barangay Hall and Day Care Center as it is already deducted from the total cost of the building.

Clemente said, ‘the 50 million previously computed as cost to recover investment of the city from the building is now down to 42 million as 8 million has already been removed for the cost of the barangay hall and the day care center.

She also said, the city is also willing to adjust the recovery period from 15 years, as previously computed to 20 years entailing the vendors to pay on a monthly basis rental rates from P3,000 to as low as P1,200 from its rate of P5,000 to as low as P2,000 per stall.

Clemente said,’ the proposed rates which they have submitted has been based on study and the vendors will no longer pay for utilities and services for the said building’.

‘It’s all there, including the buildings upkeep, maintenance and security’, she said.

‘We are willing to stretch the recovery period of 15 years to 20 years so they will pay monthly rentals at a lower costs’, Clemente said.

Meantime, Mayor Mauricio Domogan hopes the city council will approve already the rates fixed by the Local Finance Committee (LFC) the soonest.

Domogan said, ‘if the rates are ap-

proved, then vendors can already occupy the stalls designated to them so rehabilitation and restoration can start at the Mines View Park’.

‘I believe the rates are very reasonable, we have already approved their requests several times’, Domogan said.

‘They have to understand that the city has to recover its expenses for the building’, He added.

Domogan intimated the real purpose of the construction of the multi-purpose building is to house vendors who will be removed from the Mines View Park vicinity in order to bring back the beauty and elegance of the Park./paul rillorta

Editorial

..... from page 4

Mindanao may further be unlocked by arrests of ARRM warlords and election reforms.

Efforts to jack up raise revenues—a paltry 12 percent of GDP— by sin taxes on alcohol and tobacco, could be hijacked by embedded lobbies. It won’t be the first time. Despite aging leadership, the communist insurgency simmers. China’s intrusion into waters of Southeast Asian countries exclusive economic zone bugs the region.

“A first step is to resolve pervasive constraints,” says Asian Development. For the Philippines, these calls for three steps: (a) good governance; (b) improving the business environment; and (c) accelerating development of the physical, institutional and social infrastructure.”

Indeed, “we must unclog the bottleneck in infrastructure,” the mint-new National Economic and Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan states. “The 7 percent to 8 percent GDP growth target is doable.

“The President’s instruction is to speed it up, especially the infrastructure,” Balisacan said he said. “It’s a tedious process that bureaucracy often find difficult to speed up. “We need to declog the bottleneck in private investment,”

Undoing decades of corruption won’t come overnight. But those derisive old tags may yet be scrapped — finally./Juan L. Mercado

City Considers

..... from page 3

nance was passed in June 25, 2007 and took effect only in January this year, penalties for non-complying establishments includes fines for the first offense pegged at P1,000.00, 2nd offense at P2,500.00 and 3rd offense at P5,000.00 and suspension of business permit for three months.

Business Permits of Habitual offenders will not be renewed.

The city is also looking into other options to replace plastic sando bags made from other raw materials other than wood pulp and is considering the use of oxo-biodegradable plastics and the reduction, regulation or possible prohibition on the use of Polystyrene products.

Domogan said, ‘controlling the source of wastes is one of the objectives of the ordinance’ but the most effective solution to the solid waste problem is still the enforcement of ‘waste segregation at source’ and the effective implementation of waste reduction through re-use, recycle and recovery.

‘We have to help each other here, we have to be responsible enough to dispose of our wastes properly’, he added. /paul rillorta

OCD Tells

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gether. This should be documented in an Emergency Family Communication Plan (EFCP) and everyone should have a small copy of this plan in their purse or wallet at all times.

You may require rescue attention, if you are trapped in a structure, you may need to attract an emergency responder to help someone else and the only way to sustain a call for help is with a whistle. Your first aid emergency kit should contain a waterproof whistle, flashlights and extra batteries.

“Don’t panic”, Valera stressed. When there is an emergency , stay calm and think what is the most important thing to do to make you safe.

“Constant emergency drills should be conducted in the family to be ready for we don’t know when an emergency or disaster strikes; be prepared always”, Valera added./JBZ PIA-CAR

CSC Pushes

.....from page 6

even beyond their common duty”, Ronquillo stressed.

In line with this goal, Ronquillo assured that they are intensifying the implementation of the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA) and at the same time strengthening the awards program for outstanding civil servants.

Aside from orientation on the new and revised rules of the CSC on administrative cases in the civil service and updates on CSC policies, the summit on administrative governance is also highlighted by the sharing of best practices from the different local chief executives in the region and updates on the bureaucracy.

For the three-day summit, governors Jocel Baac of Kalinga, Elias Bulut Jr. of Apayao, Estaquio Bersamin of Abra, Nestor Fongwan of Benguet, and Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan shared their best practices on local governance in their respective provinces, while Congressmen Bernardo Vergara of Baguio City, Teodoro Baguilat Jr. of Ifugao and Maximo Dalog of Mt. Province, gave a talk on their Legislative Work on Human Resource Management and governance.

Department of Budget Management (DBM) Regional Director Liza Fangsilat also presented Administrative Procedures and updates in policies of the DBM; Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Regional Director John Henry Castañeda on Administrative Procedures and local administrative governance; Office of the Ombudsman Assistant Special Prosecutor Atty. Joseph Capistrano on Ombudsman’s admin procedures, new directions and updates on policies, rules and regulations; and Commission on Audit (COA) Legal Service Sector chief Atty. Josephine Tilan for COA’s admin procedures, new directions and updated policies on accounting and auditing.

The said summit was spearheaded by the CSC-Cordillera headed by Regional Director Fernando Porio./JDP/CCD-PIA CAR

13 Kidney Patients
.....from page 12

Hospital and Medical Center, courtesy of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

By noon Thursday, Amor texted with deep relief that she had been interviewed and was already waiting for the LG, and for Mary Grace to have her turn. All 13 were on their return trip to the PCSO, having lined up last June 14 but were told to go back a week after, either for the interview or to pick up their guarantee letters.

Before five o'clock p.m., they were on their way home, each clutching a guarantee letter advising the BGHMC to charge PCSO either P17,600 or P20,000 worth of dialysis sessions.

At P2,2000 per session, the two girls' letter guarantees were good for nine treatments spread out for over a month. That will give them time, in-between the four-hour treatment sessions, to knock on other doors still untapped or to be tapped again.

Among the doors that opened was that of a man who requested anonymity. The other week, he asked the two girls to meet him in front of the Baguio Cathedral. There, he handed them P10,000 each. They asked who he was but he declined to introduce himself, saying it was not important.

Two others responded to the girls' assurance they can still work despite their affliction. An architect offered either of them clerical task. Another, a regional government agency head, said he could take in one of them as a job order by July.

These and similar acts of kindness of friends, relatives and total strangers have helped the two – and many others similarly situated – keep their bearings. And their faith, as in believing despite evidence to the contrary that comes during those times they couldn't shell out P2,200 for their overdue round of blood-cleansing.

Amor, 31, of DPS barangay here, began her dialysis sessions in January, 2010. An only child, she lost her mother to cancer in 2004 and now lives with her father, a retiree and himself a heart patient. Father and son survive on his P3,000 monthly pension.

Mary Grace, 23, is the ninth and last child of a barangay aide at Irisan, Baguio's biggest barangay. She was into her senior year as an academic scholar in education at the Benguet State University when she began her life-time dialysis treatment in October, 2009.

A multi-awarded Kabataang Barangay head of Irisan, she still serves as its tourism officer.

Like Amor and many others similarly situated she uses "most of my time searching for funds of politicians, NGOs and political parties to finance my treatment because my family can't support me".

She and Amor now find strength in knocking on doors together, also for their fellow "batchmates" on the Wednesday and Saturday treatment schedule at the dialysis room of the BGHMC.

People who can and would like to help may ring up Amor's cellphone (09214193776) or Mary Grace's number (09282179154)./Ramon Dacawi.

Nutrition Workers
.....from page 12

pensive, fear of chemicals and pesticides, longer time to prepare vegetables, preference for fast foods and instant foods, lack of supply, lack of knowledge on nutritional and health benefits of vegetables.

Some 160 barangay nutrition workers, 120 of whom are assigned in the city's barangays, attended the day-long seminar spearheaded by city nutritionist, Angie Sabado, chair of the NDAP-Cordillera. The rest came from Benguet and Mt. Province.

Citing a WHO report, Mana-a said vegetables, as part of a healthy diet, can help prevent major non-communicable diseases and micronutrient deficiencies. . Approximately 1.7 million of deaths worldwide are attributable to low fruit and vegetable consumption.

Worldwide, insufficient intake of fruits and vegetables is estimated to cause around 14 percent of gastro-intestinal cancer deaths, 11 percent of ischemic heart disease deaths and about nine percent of deaths due to stroke.

To encourage children to eat vegetables, Mana-a said parents or caregivers must set the example eating vegetables themselves. "Parents need to monitor their own eating behavior so that their children will develop and keep healthy eating behavior for life."

"I am very happy that we have you as our partner in pushing nutrition among pre-schoolers," mayor Mauricio Domogan told the barangay workers in his welcome address. His own formula for good health, he said, is anchored on diet, exercise and attitude./Ramon Dacawi.

Team Notes.....
.....from page 12

bags, rattan baskets and the like, if only people actually reuse them when they go to market.

The ordinance allows use of plastic containers or sando bags for fresh meat, fish, vegetables and fruits, "provided these are placed in shopping bags allowed in this Ordinance". The city council then promulgated implementation of the ordinance by this year.

Ong's team gathered the following feedbacks: The ordinance should list all biodegradable bagging products which may be used and available in the local market; the source or "bagsakan" of these products should be determined and provided; the ordinance should be amended as paper bags are made from trees which need to be preserved.

Vendors also asked that they be allowed to use all their stocks of "sando" or non-biodegradable plastic bags and that exemptions on the paper-bag rule be considered on products such as food items which are hot or with sauce.

The team also recommended that agencies like the Department of Science and Technology be tapped to determine the best materials that the city can adopt for its bagging requirements.

Likewise, "the city and the Department of Trade and Industry should be watchful of establishments who are now taking advantage of the growing "supply-and-demand" caused by the ordinance considering that some establish-

ments and wholesale/retail sellers or "bagsakan" outlets have already increased their prices of paper bags and oxo-biodegradable plastic bags", Ong said.

He reiterated the need for monitoring the sale of non-biodegradable plastics which are being passed on as biodegradable with misleading labels like "Recyclable plastic bag", "100% recycled" and 100% biodegradable"./Ramon Dacawi.

MOA Forged
.....from page 7

Solid Waste Management Act. The stretch covers the inter-local health zone of Bokod-Kabayan Dennis Molintas Memorial Hospital.

The activity spearheaded by the Environment and Natural Resources Office of the province is clustered into inter-local health zones. It initially took off along the Halsema Highway last year.

Provincial officials, officials of Itogon, Bokod, Kabayan, and this town, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Education, National Commission of Indigenous Peoples, Philippine National Police, Benguet State University Bokod, SN Aboitiz, National Power Corporation, senior citizens, farmers federation, religious sector, business sector, transport group forged the agreement signifying their commitment in adopting the activity to maintain the cleanliness of the road stretch.

Apart from the clean-up activities along the road stretch, Governor Nestor Fongwan also urged officials, concerned agencies and groups the need to protect the Agno river whose tributaries are found in Bokod, Kabayan, and Itogon as the populace is being benefitted from the resources generated from the hydropower in Ambuklao and Binga dams.

ENRO Supervising Environment Management Specialist Julius Kollin said this will be a simultaneous regular drive among the four LGUs including the earlier cluster the Mt. Trail Inter-Local Health Zone of Atok, Bakun, Buguias, and Mankayan along the Halsema Highway.

Seeing the impact and significance of the activity, Kollin said they also plan to introduce the concept in some towns of the province such as Sablan, Tuba, Tublay and portions of Itogon and this town.

Just like in Halsema Highway, the activity in the Benguet Vizcaya road started with an environmental forum where motorists and travelers were pulled out for a while and briefed generating their support in maintaining cleanliness along the thoroughfares and proper disposal of solid wastes. This was further intensified into a clean-up drive which is set to be institutionalized./JDP/SCA-PIA CAR,Benguet

City Streamlines Demolition Procedures

BAGUIO CITY – The city's anti-squatting committee further streamlined the process involved in the demolition of illegal structures to make it more effective in addressing the squatting problem.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said the committee led by city administrator Carlos Canilao saw the need to firm up the procedures to unify actions and speed up demolition activities.

He said the committee also decided "to abbreviate the process" to speed up demolition activities and avoid adding further to the mounting number of squatting cases now pending before the city.

As agreed on by the committee in a meeting last Wednesday, summary demolition will be employed on illegal structures that have no means of being legalized through any process.

They also agreed that the cut-off period for the demolition will be 2006 which means the illegal constructions built after said year can be subjected to outright dismantling procedures.

On-going constructions not covered by building permit and located in untitled lots have to be stopped and removed immediately before the building's completion to avoid complications.

On the other hand, constructions located in titled properties and undertaken by the property owner may be given a grace period to acquire building permit and legalize the construction.

Illegal structures located in parks, waterways, road rights-of-way and other reservations will have to be removed immediately. The body agreed to shorten the procedure by involving the concerned office at the outset of investigations.

The mayor also advised lot owners to take the responsibility of guarding their own properties to ward off squatters. He said those beset with squatting problem but are not qualified for summary demolition should file a case in court instead of going to the city.

The mayor said he directed the committee to conduct an inventory of the pending squatting cases before the city for review and for possible resolution./A Refuerzo

Nutrition Workers Accent on Veggies

First, the bad news: Filipinos are eating less and less vegetables. From 145 grams per day in 1978, consumption had decreased to only 110 grams per day in 2008.

The 2008 figure is 290 grams short of the 400 grams of vegetables and fruits average daily consumption recommended by the World Health Organization.

The good news is that the Cordillera, the country's major source of temperate climate vegetables, had the highest vegetable consumption at 169 grams per day in 2008. Region IV-A

(CALABARZON) and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao tied at the lowest at 92 grams per person per day.

These statistics from the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology were cited by nutritionist Wendy Mana-a to place into perspective the 14th pre-Nutrition Month seminar conducted by the Cordillera chapter of the Nutritionist-Dietitians' Association of the Philippines last Wednesday at the Veniz Ho-

tel here.

National Nutrition Month, to be observed in July, is anchored on the theme "Pagkain ng gulay, ugaliin, araw-araw itong ihain".

Mana-a then ticked off the 10 reasons for the low consumption of vegetables the FNRI found in a study commissioned by the National Nutrition Council 2005:

Influence of family members who do not eat vegetables, dislike for vegetables because of taste and texture, preference for meat, cultural beliefs about vegetables (e.g. eating squash can cause leprosy), vegetables are ex-

Cont. on page 11

The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!



KIDS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN - Dona Josefa Carino Elementary School pupils are all smiles as they join the city-wide clean-up drive being spearheaded by the employees of city hall. Members of the Baguio's Finest, DepEd, barangays residents and some non-government units also joined the undertaking June 22./By Bong Cayabyab

13 Kidney Patients get Relief from PCSO

Like many of their kind, Amor Orpilla and Mary Grace Binay-an had survived on empty. Once, twice, or even repeatedly, they had skipped a session of their twice-a-week hemodialysis, the filtering out of impurities in the blood through a machine

that substitutes for kidneys.

Hemodialysis is expensive, that's why. It's also for a life-time, unless one could afford to undergo kidney transplant.

So last Wednesday evening, the two young women and 11 relatives of other patients perhaps weaker than them to

make the trip, boarded a van for Quezon City. Before dawn the following day, they joined the early queue of hundreds at the Lung Center for interview and, hopefully, the release of "letter guarantees" entitling a patient to fund support for dialysis sessions at the Baguio General Hospital. Cont. on page 11

Team Notes Kinks in Anti-Plastic Ordinance

It looks like the city's ordinance banning plastic bags and advocating use of paper and other biodegradable containers in groceries needs to be amended before it can be fully implemented.

One reason is that biodegradable (compostable) plastic is now in the market, something unavailable, and therefore not considered, when the ordinance was passed in 2007. This was pointed out by mayor Mauricio Domogan

in his recent dialogues with businessmen on how the regulatory enactment could be enforced.

Another is that Ordinance 26-2007 promotes use of paper bags which, according to a report on information dissemination on the ordinance, may not be the best choice to replace plastic bags.

"The city should look into whether or not paper bags would be the best option to replace plastic bags considering that the former is known to be made of wood

pulp which is derived from trees," said local legislative staff officer Dan Ricky Ong in his report to vice-mayor Daniel Farinas.

Citing the conclusion of a study on their production, including cost of their disposal, Ong said neither paper bags nor plastic bags are the best choice. Not even biodegradable plastic.

"Reusable canvas bags would be the best option," he said.

Or anything reusable such as buri Cont. on page 11

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